

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00054 100331Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1542

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0054

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CA

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS: PRESS REPORT

REF: HALIFAX A-9

1. COUNCIL OF MARITIME PREMIERS, MEETING IN CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI, DECLARED ON FEB 8 THAT PATRIATION OF CONSTITUTION WAS AN "URGENT NATIONAL PRIORITY" AND INDICATED READINESS OF THE THREE MARITIME PREMIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. IN OTHER ACTION FEB 8, COUNCIL BACKED AWAY FROM ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MARITIMES IF QUEBEC VOTES FOR SEPARATION.

2. FOREGOING IS SUMMARY OF REPORT BY STAFF REPORTER OF HALIFAX "CHRONICLE-HERALD" OF 2/9/77 . ARTICLE WAS STRAIGHT REPORTAGE.

3. COMMENT: INDICATING READINESS TO MEET WITH GOC ON PATRIATION ISSUE DOES NOT MEAN AGREEMENT WITH FORMULAS PUT FORWARD BY TRUDEAU OR BY OTHER PROVINCIAL PREMIERS. NOT TOO MUCH, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE READ INTO MARITIME PREMIERS' STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. PEI PREMIER ALEX CAMPBELL HAS BACKED AWAY FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00054 100331Z

HIS EARLIER PROPOSAL (REFAIR) TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE CONSEQUENCES TO THE MARITIMES OF SECESSION BY QUEBEC. SPEAKING FOR ALL THREE PREMIERS ON FEB 8, CAMPBELL INDICATED DECISION MADE NOT TO ESTABLISH COMMISSION ON GROUND THAT ITS ESTABLISHMENT WOULD SEEM TO BE AN ASSUMPTION OF THE INEVITABILITY OF QUEBEC'S SECESSION. "WE BELIEVE OUR PUBLIC POSTURE SHOULD BE

POSITIVE IN NATURE," HE SAID. ONE WONDERS WHETHER THE PREMIERS WERE TRULY MOTIVATED BY THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING OR IF, IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER, THEY CONCLUDED THAT, WITH PRIVATE FIRMS ALREADY MAKING STUDIES OF THE QUESTION (HALIFAX 18) AND THE MEDIA FILLED WITH PUNDITRY ON THE SUBJECT, THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION MIGHT NOT JUST BE UNNECESSARY EXPENSE AND BOTHER. END COMMENT.

MOORE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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